

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic discussion held on October 29, 2009, during which the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (with particular reference to claim 29) was discussed.

The present invention provides solid oxide fuel cells that include, *inter alia*, a solid electrolyte and a ceramic anode bonded to one another, the fuel cells being capable of directly operating on a sulfur-containing hydrocarbon fuel having two or more carbons. The inventive fuel cells accordingly enable extraction of energy from such fuels without the need for costly, energy-inefficient reformation or other pre-treatment processes.

In accordance with the aforementioned telephonic interview, Applicants have amended the claims and adjusted the claim status identifiers as set forth in the above claim listing to resolve the formality issue raised in the pending Notice. Applicants note that the Examiner has agreed that the present amendments “would overcome the [35 U.S.C.] 112 rejection of record” (Oct. 5, 2009 Advisory Action at 2).

Applicants have also canceled claim 66 and its related dependent claims so to advance resolution of this case. Applicants do not, however, concede that these or any other claims are unpatentable, and reserve the right to pursue one or more of these claims in subsequent, related applications.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments set forth place the pending claims in proper form for appellate review. For all of the reasons set forth in their previous responses (the entirety of which are incorporated herein by reference), Applicants submit that the rejections of the pending claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the office (1) enter the requested amendments to the claims; (2) reconsider and withdraw the pending objections and rejections; and (3) pass the pending claims to allowance. If the Examiner believes that additional communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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/Aaron B. Rabinowitz/

Aaron B. Rabinowitz
Registration No. 61,943

Woodcock Washburn LLP
Cira Centre
2929 Arch Street, 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2891
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439